



UNITED KENNEL CLUB

Your Total Dog Registry Since 1898

June 2, 2014

RE: House Bill 5095

Dear Members of the Michigan House Regulatory Reform Committee:

My name is Sara Chisnell, attorney for United Kennel Club. Established in 1898, the United Kennel Club, based in Kalamazoo, Michigan, is the largest all-breed performance-dog registry in the world, registering dogs from all 50 states and 25 foreign countries. More than 60 percent of its 15,000 annually licensed events are tests of hunting ability, training and instinct. UKC prides itself on its family-oriented, friendly, educational events. The UKC has supported the "Total Dog" philosophy through its events and programs for over a century. As a departure from registries that place emphasis on a dog's looks, UKC events are designed for dogs that look and perform equally well. There are nearly 34,000 dogs registered with UKC in the state of Michigan.

UKC commends the idea and intent behind House Bill 5095, which seeks to amend the current law regulating pet shops and animal shelters, but has some concerns as well. The bill also encompasses "large-scale dog breeding kennels" and defines them as kennels "where more than 15 female intact dogs over the age of 4 months are housed or kept for the purpose of breeding." No exception is provided for breeders of working, show, hunting, and performance dogs. UKC believes that the health and well-being of dogs are of the utmost importance, and are significant concerns. However, UKC believes that breeders who are active with their dogs ARE the responsible breeders and ostensibly not the target of this legislation. "Large-scale dog breeders" should already be licensed and regulated by the USDA. In fact, recent updates made to the Animal Welfare Act by USDA/APHIS will include far more breeders than previously came under the purview of the AWA.

UKC supports improved regulation and set holding periods for animal shelters and animal holding facilities. At our request, it was added into the correlating Senate Bill 560 that the same veterinary certifications and vaccination requirements required for dogs imported into the state by pet shops and large scale dog breeders should apply to animal shelters as well. Many dogs come from out of state into the shelter and rescue system, some even from outside of the US, and bring diseases into our state. Requiring proper vaccinations and certifications by source veterinarians will help to stem that issue.

If our outlined concerns are properly addressed and changes made to the legislation in reflection of those concerns, UKC could potentially support this bill. On behalf of responsible dog breeders, I appreciate your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Sara Chisnell
Legal Counsel
UNITED KENNEL CLUB